GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:283
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2001
LINKING OF SOUTHERN RIVERS
M. CHINNASAMY

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to link all the Southern rivers to solve the flood and irrigation problems in that region;

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal; and

(c) the time by which the proposal is likely to be implemented?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI)

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENTREFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO.283 TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.12.2001 IN LOK SABHA REGARDING LINKING OF SOUTHERN RIVERS

In 1980, the Ministry of Water Resources, then known as the Ministry of Irrigation, formulated a National Perspective Plan for integrated water resources development through inter-linkages of several southern based Peninsular rivers and the Himalayan rivers. Through this programme it is intended to assess the surplus basins as of now for possible transfer of water from surplus to deficit basins in order to optimally utilise the water resources of the country. With this purpose the Government of India has established the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) in 1982 as an autonomous society to carryout water balance and feasibility studies of the Peninsular and Himalayan rivers. In the Peninsular Component (Southern region), 16 links have been taken up for feasibility studies of which 12 links pertain to the inter-linking of the southern rivers. Feasibility reports for three of the linkages have been completed. Implementation of the water transfer links would only be possible if the concerned co basin states agree to the water linkage proposal and other logistical support necessary for project implementation and availability of fund.

The then Ministry of Irrigation (now Ministry of Water Resources) and Central Water Commission have formulated a National Perspective Plan for water resources development in August, 1980 which envisages inter linkages among the various Peninsular rivers and the Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from presently assessed surplus basins to water deficit basins for the optimum utilisation of water resources. The Government of India has established the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) as an Autonomous Society in July, 1982 to inter alia carry out the water balance and feasibility studies of the National Perspective Plan. The Plan, inter alia envisages 17 water transfer links under the Peninsular Component and 14 water transfer links under the Himalayan Component for which pre feasibility reports have been completed. 16 links in the Peninsular Component have been taken up for feasibility report and out of which 12 links are proposed for inter linking Southern rivers. Feasibility reports for three of the above been completed. Implementation of the water transfer link proposals would depend on factors like reaching consensus among the co-basin States of the link proposal regarding the proposed transfer, preparation of detailed project reports and availability of funds etc.

The National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development envisages inter linkages among the various Peninsular rivers and the Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins for the optimum utilisation of water resources. The Government of India has established the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) as an Autonomous Society in July, 1982 to carry out the water balance and other studies of the National Perspective Plan. NWDA has completed water balance and prefeasibility studies of all the link proposals. NWDA has identified 16 links for preparation of the feasibility report under Peninsular Component. Out of these, 9 links involved in the interlinking of Mahanadi-Godavari-Krishna- Cauveryrivers, and 3 links involved in diversion of other west flowing rivers towards east under Peninsular component envisage transfer of water to deficit basins of Cauvery and other east flowing rivers. Feasibility reports for three of the above links have been completed and for the rest of the links Feasibility reports are planned to be completed by the year 2004. Implementation of such water transfer link proposals would depend on various factors like consensus among the basin States regarding the proposed transfer, preparation of detailed project reports and availability of funds etc.